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3-23-02PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:  
Kenichiro YANO et al.

Appln. No.: PCT/JP00/04117

Filed: Concurrently herewith

Attorney Dkt. No.: 103176-00001

For: ASSISTANT FOR DIGESTING LIGNOCELLULOSE MATERIAL AND METHOD  
FOR PRODUCING PULPPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTCommissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: December 5, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and initial examination of the application,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-10 as follows:

1. (Amended) An assistant for digesting a lignocellulose material, which  
comprises a combination of:

(I) a nonionic surfactant (A) comprising one or more compounds represented by  
the general formula (1):



wherein  $R^1$  is a branched alkyl group containing 4-24 carbon atoms represented by the  
general formula (2):



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